TechNews

March 3, 2005

This handout is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audience is PCHA and FPA-PM application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also included.

New Release Dates and Content for PCHA and FPA-PM

New **PCHA Version 1.2.25 -** This version improves the Data Validation and error handling routines, and also fixes a problem importing DOI 1202 files when there are more than one BIA/NPS/FWS units in the same database.

- The newest version can be found on the web in the following locations: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/nfmas-beta/ or visit the FPA website, choose FPA Implementation Team and Guidance and then under **Field Tools and Examples** choose **Current link to PCHA 99**

- **Latest Release notes**: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/nfmas-beta/FPA-HA.htm

▪ If you have more than one NPS, BIA, or FWS unit in your database: Download 1.2.25 and re-import from the 1202 files, using the option "Don't Overwrite (Skip Redundant)". This will ensure that all DOI fires were imported into PCHA. Previous versions may have incorrectly identified some fires as duplicates. **Note**: FS, BLM and other imports are not affected.

Enhancements include:
- Web-based topographic retrieval better estimates time, and reports at end if points were missed
- Data Validation reports status of topo/fuels, in order to identify "no current record" error during XML preparation
- Duplicate fires report, and preparedness staffing season determination enhanced to fix "invalid use of null"

Remember: FPA-PM users need to ensure they are using the compatible version of PCHA and PM releases. An error message will occur indicating a newer version of PCHA must be used. Each time new business requirements are developed within FPA-PM that relates to the Fire Event Scenario, a new version of PCHA is developed to accommodate these changes.

▪ **PCHAFIRES File Format Instructions -** one of the possible fire file import formats for PCHA is PCHAFIRES. This is the selection under the Fire → Import Fires → PCHA Standard Fire Import Format tab. While this format was specifically developed to support use of PCHA by the states, the Fish and Wildlife Service occurrence data is currently on FAMWEB in this format as well.

The key to successful import of this format is the file extension. This format requires a file name in the format XXXXX.PCHAFIRES. The X's represent the file name and PCHAFIRES is the file extension. Windows will generally view these files as a .TXT file. To get the file onto a local computer with the correct file extension, follow these steps:

1. Right click on the file name you wish to download;
2. Pick "Save Target As"
3. In the "Save As" dialogue box select the location the file should be saved to;
4. The name of the file should show in the "File name" dropdown;
5. In the "Save as type" dropdown it should show PCHAFIRES document, if it shows .TXT, click on the dropdown and select "All files" then ADD .PCHAFIRES to the file name.

Note: PCHA will import these files only if the file extension is .PCHAFIRES.

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) quality control and assurance process is progressing.
Please Note: For questions and comments regarding the DRI process please call Howard Roose at (208) 947-3781 or e-mail at howard_roose@blm.gov .

Please visit the following website for additional information regarding this effort.
http://fpa.nifc.gov/Library/DRIQCQA_FPA_v2.pdf . To extract the downloaded files, you must use WinZip. **pkzip does not work!**

FPA-PM

Data Input Checks - Some FPUs have sent a number of spreadsheets that may be helpful to track inputs to PM. We would like to gather more and compile a "generic" set available on the FPA website. Please send them to Sue Weber at saweber@fs.fed.us .

▪ **Version 1.2** will be released in March following successful beta testing.